Better working of the Panchayat.

66. Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they have called for from the new officer for the Panchayats any scheme for the better working of the Panchayat;

(b) whether any such scheme has been submitted to the Government by the new officer after his appointment;

(c) if the answer to question (b) is in the affirmative, will they be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the same?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—(a) No.

(b) No.

(c) No answer is necessary in view of the answer to (b) above.

Child Marriage in the State.

67. Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) if they are aware that several British Indian subjects come and solemnise child marriages in the State, evading the provisions of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, which is in force in British India;

(2) whether the Government is aware of the necessity of legislation prohibiting child marriages in the State;

(3) whether they intend introducing any Bill in the Council to the same effect; and if so, when?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—(1) No.

(2) No.

(3) No.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Will the Government be pleased to call for statistics in the matter?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—It is not possible; no statistics are maintained.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Is it not possible for the Government to call for statistics by referring to the castewar statements?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—No, it is not possible.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Am I to understand that no report of such marriages has come to the notice of the Government from the newspapers?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Government cannot look into all these. Government do not make a special note of such things.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any need for such a piece of legislation?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—That is for this Council to decide. If the non-official Members bring a bill, we will consider it.

Fish Curing Yard, Alikkode.

68. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) how long the establishment of a Fish Curing Yard near the Alikkode river mouth has been in their consideration;

(b) how long more will it remain in consideration-phase;

(c) whether they are aware that the Yard will, among other things, contribute its own share towards the mitigation of the local unemployment distress?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—(a) It has not been under the consideration of Government.

(b) This does not arise in view of answer to (a).

(c) No.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—I want to know whether the Inspector of Excise took an agreement from me that I would give site for the fish curing yard.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I do not understand the question.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Whether the Inspector of Excise of Cochin came to me and took an agreement saying that I shall assign a site to the Government for a fish curing yard and then the Government will consider it?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The Hon'ble Member sent a letter to me and I asked the Inspector to meet him and ask whether he is prepared to give a site free for the purpose.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—What do you mean by saying it has not been under the consideration of the Government?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Simply because the Hon'ble Member has only sent a letter to me it cannot be under the consideration of the Government. I have to satisfy myself that the site is suitable and the yard will be self-supporting. It is only then that I will address the Government. I did not report to the Government. The matter will be placed before the Government if I am satisfied that the place is suitable.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Did the Excise Inspector represent the Government or did he come in his private capacity?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Under my orders.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly